



THE

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*Sail and Power Boating - America's Boating Club*®

A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

Utica, New York

<http://www.uticainfo.org>

September, 2008

District 6

## VIVIAN SELOVER

### **Bt Netty Kobernuss with help from Phyllis Skalwold**

I don't know when Vivian first joined the Utica/Rome Sail and Power Squadron; it was long before I became a sailor. She and Past Commander Earl (deceased) were members when I joined in 1976. The ladies then belonged to the Utica Power Squadron Auxiliary.

When our squadron took a leadership role in advocating that women be welcomed to regular membership, Vivian joined the squadron, along with most of the rest of our group of Captains' Ladies, as we were then introduced at Squadron functions.

Vivian grew up in Ohio, was high school valedictorian, and obtained a degree in Education from the University of Akron. She and Earl were married in Akron in September, 1950.

Vivian taught fifth grade until Earl was posted to Rome Air Development Center in 1954. Her life was enriched as she mothered her 3 sons, Kenneth, David, and Charles, and served in increasingly important roles in her church. She loved to travel, especially in Cape Cod and California. Her hobbies included crewel work, other embroidery, and art.

As I came to know Vivian, she impressed me as a quiet, intelligent woman who always lent a helping hand. In addition to intelligence, she had an outstanding memory.

As a living "corporate memory" she was simply amazing. During discussions about when and where a certain event was held, who was in charge, and what happened; Vivian usually stopped any debate with something like, "No, it was April, 1975. Remember, that was the year that we had that freak late snowstorm, and members were forced off the Thruway when the Thruway Authority closed it because of poor visibility. We were on our way to the District Conference at Grand Island." She could recount the stories of other delayed members who arrived in Grand Island after fearing for their lives in a Western NY spring snowstorm. There were times when she seemed to me like a history teacher, reading from an invisible text!

We learned to trust Vivian's memory bank. "Vivian, when did..., who was..." She seemed always to know the dates, names, places, and events. And she remembered the big and little things that gave a special flavor to her history lessons.

A great corporate memory has been lost. I miss the woman and I miss her great memory.



See Vivian Selover page 4

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Cdr George Peckingham, AP



Hi, folks! Where has the summer gone? Wet weekends and high gas prices seem to have curtailed a lot of boating activities. Driving around the county and seeing a lot of boats for sale gives some indication of the problem. Perhaps it's a good time for an upgrade during what seems to be a buyer's market for boats. The usage of Kayuta Lake was down and definitely shifted towards canoes and kayaks and small outboard powered skiffs. Membership continues to fall as we had ten non-renewals this year. Members of the Bridge will be calling the non-renewals to make the case for them to rejoin the squadron. As of August 31 we had 76 active members. Any suggestions, recommendations or help in finding new or retaining old members would be appreciated. The main two sources of new members over the past few years has been through the Boating Course classes and **you** chatting up your friends on what a great boating education and social club we are.

I was shocked and sorry to learn over the weekend of Richard Smith's passing. He, along with Dean Woodard introduced many of us to the Squadron through the Boating Course. We extend to Dick's family and friends our heartfelt condolences.

The Haul Out Party is scheduled for September 27, 2008 at 1700 at the Lake Delta Yacht Club on Karlen Road in Rome. Make plans now for this "don't miss" event. Fall sunsets over Lake Delta can be spectacular when the foliage is turning on Stokes Hill. Harry Winberg, with some help from Randy Webster, has done yeoman's work in making the arrangements for this party. Look elsewhere in this issue for more particulars on food and beverage options. Telephone squad will be calling shortly to get your reservations and meal choices.

How many other readers of the Utica OD saw squadron member Donald McDonald's picture on his Farmall land yacht preparing for the Bridgewater Community Day Parade?

In parting, may I leave you with this thought: Boating is an ever changing field in terms of equipment for navigation, safety and environmental regulations. Your Squadron has the tools to help you add to your knowledge and enjoyment of the sport. Take the time to upgrade or refresh your skills through our courses and seminars. The national organization is putting in a lot of effort to update the course materials to reflect the

(Commander page 5)

## LT. RICHARD A. SMITH, P

by P/C Dean A. Woodard. P.

It is with great sorrow that I note the passing of my friend of over 30 years, Richard A. Smith, better known to our family as “Stinky.”

I first met Richard a few days after he had joined the Lake Delta Volunteer Fire Department. As I watched the fire truck he was riding in skid on the ice and rolled down the hill off Elmer Hill Road, I recalled that Richard broke his eye glasses in the roll over, but he it never had his spirit broken. He remained an active firefighter and EMT until the day of his death.

Richard came to Rome as an Air Force officer after a tour of Vietnam with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Richard’s love was farming and he and his young family were able to purchase what became Smith’s Last Chance Farm on Elmer Hill Road in Rome.

As time passed I spent more and more time with Richard and his farming activities, shoveling the barn and getting in hay. Soon thereafter there was the first energy crises. Joined by Mike Kunkel the three families began to use our own form of alternative energy sources by cutting firewood.

I had a truck and a chainsaw, Richard had a place to dump the stuff, and Mike supplied the labor and willingness to cut the trees that Richard and I were afraid to touch. Wood cutting and all the rest of the farming activities progressed to the point where we decided to Richard should expand into horse boarding. You see, our girls all decided they wanted to own and ride horses.

The concrete came out of half of the barn floor and wooden stalls went in as well as an outside paddock. We had a horse named Satin who joined Lauren Smith’s Jody and Kathy Kunkel’s Little Satin with a host of other horses in Richard’s barn.

All of the children grew up on and about Richard’s farm. In fact our son Martin’s first job was helping Smith on the farm every Tuesday and Saturday cleaning the barn. When he eventually applied for a job at Burger King he listed his previous occupation as Agricultural Technician. Seems he would rather shovel burgers than the other stuff.

One bright summer day Mike Kunkel found a 47-foot pontoon houseboat for sale on Sandy Pond that we named “Incredulous”. Skipping the details of the adventure of making the voyage and sailing from Lake Ontario to Rome, Incredulous became a new summer play thing for us all.

About this time, Richard and I took a Public Boating Course offered by the United States Power Squadron and accepted the invitation by instructors Dr. Dave Ellison and Harry Winberg to join the Utica Squadron. Seamanship and Piloting classes later, Richard and I signed on as instructors to teach the Public Boating class of which we have done countless times since.

I went on to buy “Summerplace” and Richard bought “Daddy’s Playpen”. Yep, you got the name right.

Richard and I always had an agreement, he would fix the mechanical things that broke and I would fix the “wooden” things that needed fixing.

Richard, Mike and I were three experts at collective decision making. Mike and I would make the decision and Richard would do something. I recall meeting in the parking lot of the Rome Board of Education where on the last day, Mike and I got Richard signed up to run for a seat on the Board, which he won and did a great job.

I also recall that we were part of getting him invited to be Chairman of the Rome Parking Authority, where he served with distinction for many years.

There was however in Richard a desire to help better the community without any prodding from us. With no help from us he continued as an Officer in the Air Force Reserve until retiring as a Lt Colonel, as well as a valued federal employee. He served on the board of Directors of the Americu Credit Union and was an advisor and active SCORE member.

Richard was much more than this and a second father to our children, teaching lessons that they could never have learned from any other source.

Of the three of us, Richard, Mike and I, Richard always called me, the oldest by a few years, the “lead the force”. If you are not familiar with this Air Force term, it means the one plane that you flew as much as possible under the most adverse conditions to learn what could be expected to go wrong with the rest of the fleet. Well Richard, you are the new “lead the force”. Keep the path well lighted and good sailing until we meet again.



## UTICA POWER AND SAIL SQUADRON 2008 HAUL-OUT PARTY

The Utica Sail and Power Squadron will host its 2008 traditional Haul-out Party at a non-traditional venue on Saturday, September 27 at the Lake Delta Yacht Club, in Rome N.Y. This is, we believe, the first time our squadron has met at this delightful location, and we will have the whole place to ourselves.

Cocktail hour will be at 1700 hr. on the lawn overlooking the lake, (and in late September this is one grand view). Lousy weather may force us inside, but that's OK too. Dinner will be at 1800 hr. and we have three choices for our entrees, (a) Rib eye Marsala, with mushrooms, demiglaze, in wine; (b) Chicken Piccata with mushrooms, capers, lemon, butter, in white wine; and (c) Broiled Seafood Platter, with shrimp, scallops and haddock, again in white wine. An antipasto salad will precede the main course, and dessert will be Chef's choice, most likely mixed berry shortcake

Since LDYC has no liquor license, the cocktail party will be beer and wine, with seasonal products, chips & dips etc, and whatever "demon rum" you wish to bring to the occasion. Nuff sed.

The price for the above is \$20.00 per person, and we will initiate our phone call tree in a week or so to confirm your intentions and your entree choices. If you wish to bring a small boat to haul, we will activate the "marine railway" for those die-hards who need to bring their toys. For the rest of us, let's have a great time in a great place with great people!

## SEO REPERT

By P/C Gerry Fry, SN

Hi fellow boaters. I hope you had a very fine summer and can stretch your boating for a few more weeks. Vicky and I have to take a couple of weekends off from our cottage on the River but hope to get up there at least three more weekends. It will get pretty chilly by Columbus Day. Soon it will be time to think about more indoor activities.



Now we can always think about participating in or teaching a USPS member course or help with the fall public boating course. We need all the help that we can get. You all have experiences and special knowledge to share with your fellow members. You should know that Seamanship is the first course that is intended for new members. In fact I just learned after 10 years plus in this boating club that national will not allow a member to use the grade of P or AP until they have completed Seamanship. So this fall we will offer Seamanship on Thursday evenings from 1900 to 2100 hours at the Whitesboro High School. This course will start on 2 October and should finish by 20 November. We will be using a new book that we beta tested two years ago with very positive acceptance. I am looking forward to working with the 6 members who have signed up so far. Other members who may have missed my phone call are most welcome to sign up by contacting me.

Our second advanced grade course will be Advanced Piloting (AP) to be very ably taught by Commander George Peckingham. This course will start with a review of Piloting concepts and plotting skills so that a few people who didn't finish the Piloting course last spring can take the P final exam. All of the 7 members who are pre-registered in this course will want to have some review so they should plan to start on Tuesday 23 September at 1900 in Whitesboro High School. George will be most attentive to the use of GPS waypoints in plotting a course and their subsequent use in running the course as review items for the Piloting exam. GPS usage is strongly integrated into the AP course.

See SEO page 5.

**Vivian Selover (from page 1)**

Yes, I'm sure that the facts are all in the records, somewhere, but without the flavor, without the personal touches that Vivian always included when she jogged our collective memories with the grace notes that make a memory special.

Vivian, we will remember you for being a sweet, gentle, smart grace note. And thanks for the memories.

**Missed by our Squadron-  
-Vivian L. Bacher Selover:**

Born July 26, 1930, in Akron, OH  
Died June 26, 2008, in Rome, NY

Wife of Earl E. Selover, Senior Navigator and Past Commander of Utica Power and Sail Squadron.  
Hostess and First Mate on "The Pearl" (Home port, Oneida Lake).

Missed by sons Kenneth, David, and Charles and by their partners and wives Ann, Mary, and June. Missed by grandchildren Melissa, Andrew, Simone, Jeff, and Michelle and great grandchildren Josiah, Celeste, and Selah.

Missed at Trinity United Church of Christ where she taught church school for 35 years and was Superintendent. Where she served on the Christian Education Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and was Church Librarian. A recipient of the Christian Service Award.

Missed by fellow members of Lake Delta Yacht Club, Western Group of College Women, Ava Dorfman Senior Citizens Center, the Rome YMCA, and the Rome Art and Community.

**SEO from page 4**

Engine Maintenance is scheduled for 1900 to 2100 hours Tuesday evenings starting 30 September 2008 at Whitesboro High School. We now have 6 students interested in this course but our teacher, Fred Dyer is experiencing some back problems. We need someone to step forward to fill in for Fred for a few weeks. As a lead teacher or a backup teacher your main job is to facilitate discussion of the chapter topics in the classroom. Usually we have several students in every class with enough experience to help clarify the books contents and vigorously contribute to the discussion. Someone please help us with this course.

This fall we will also need some help for Dean Woodard with the Squadron Boating course. We will offer this public boating course during October or November depending on Dean's health care schedule and available help.

As you can see by my comments above, we have a good schedule of courses spread over several years with a rotation designed for grade advancement. However as many of us get older we see a strong need for new and younger instructors to help. Our program of teaching member courses and public boating safety courses will last only as long as new people realize that member benefits depend on member involvement. Involvement needs to include both taking and giving.

**COMMANDER FROM PAGE 2**

modern world. The seminars offer a quick way to refresh or learn about current equipment and usage. Some of the latest topics include: GPS, Trailering Your Boat, Paddle Smart, Marine Radar, Anchoring, Knots, Bends and Hitches for Mariners, and Hurricanes and Boats. I have reviewed the USPS seminar on paddle sports called Paddle Smart and find it would be very interesting for anyone wanting to take up canoeing or kayaking although it is more slanted towards kayaking. If there is any interest in any of the foregoing please contact Gerry Fry or me and we will set up a convenient location and two-hour time slot.



## CHECKING THE BILGE

by P/C Dean A. Woodard



Dear BoatU.S. Member,

Thanks to some great teamwork, the threat of a new EPA discharge permit for all your boats is gone!

On Tuesday night, President Bush signed into law "The Clean Boating Act of 2008," which gives recreational boats a permanent exemption for the court imposed EPA discharge permit.

I thank each of you for helping create this victory for boating. Every time we asked for your help, you were there to push the legislation further down the path towards successful passage. You contacted your Members of Congress and helped them understand the importance of boating in your life.

And Congress heard the loud voices of tens of thousands of boaters! Nice work!

Enjoy the rest of the summer on the water!

Margaret Podlich

Vice President of Government Affairs  
BoatU.S.



### Supporting Membership in USPS

By SEO Gerry Fry

Commander George has asked me to help Fred Dyer with the Membership Committee work while Fred is getting his back problems tuned up. Membership in USPS is always a top priority item for every Commander and it should be for all of our members. We constantly monitor our membership numbers and participation to help us plan our club's future course. Sort of like keeping a "Seaman's Eye" while on the water.

Every group gains and loses members for various reasons. As in the stock market we would like to have more gainers than losers. The obvious facts are that members get older, our society gets more complex and budgets sometimes get stretched too thin. All contribute to losing members. What can we do to gain members?

As your SEO, I receive many phone calls from boaters who feel that they need a boating safety course. Since they are not all personal watercraft owners, I try to learn what their needs are for boating education. We have picked up some new members in recent years with this technique of questioning and explaining and encouraging folks to join us. Since our national organization has encouraged us to accept new members who are experienced boaters without meeting the public boating safety course requirement, we can put these people right into our member courses that meet their needs.

We also have a program called the "Power of One". This program highlights the importance and effectiveness of the individual member who recruits new members. We all know other boaters who can benefit from membership in our club. Your help is needed to talk to your boating friends about USPS membership. Our national website ([www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)) has a membership page that will help you sell the many benefits of membership.

At one time in my career I worked on the road as a salesman for Carnation Milk Co. Naturally this travel involved expenses and the company wanted to keep expenses at a minimum. I was told that the profit margin was such that selling \$40 was equivalent to saving \$1. It was a lot easier to save a buck by careful spending than to sell \$40 worth of goods. Likewise it should be easier to keep a USPS member than to recruit a new member. We do try to keep our members involved but we don't always succeed. Some older members continue to pay their dues to support our mission of teaching public boating safety. We really appreciate that because we know that we are helping to save lives on the water. We also phone members who become delinquent in payment of their annual dues to find out why we aren't meeting their needs.

It should be obvious that membership recruiting and retention is not a one person job. Your help is needed.

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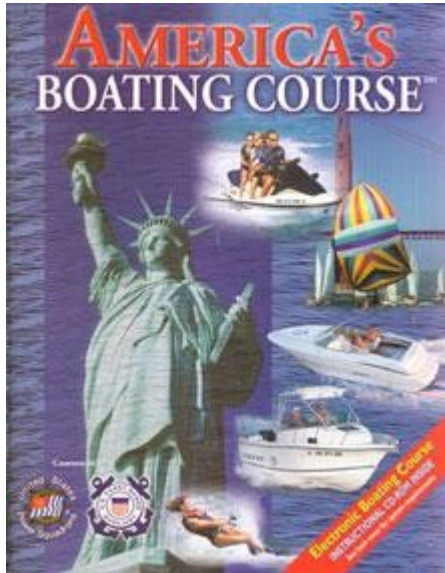
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